

# In the News

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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## Message from the Mayor

I'd like to remind all of our readers that Citizen Summit III will take place on Saturday, November 1, from 8:30 am to 4 pm, at the new Washington Convention Center.

I will join elected officials, community leaders and citizens for the largest ongoing town hall meeting in the United States. But it's more than that. Residents will help us begin making the tough choices involved to determine the policies and priorities of the District government.

Citizen Summit III is the public's opportunity to help form a vision for the District of Columbia. During the summit, residents and government officials engage in extensive dialogue on critical public issues. The District's "Citywide Strategic Plan" is currently in draft form. Input from Citizen Summit III helps shape the final version of the Citywide Strategic Plan, which sets budget priorities for coming years. That means citizen voices are a key part of shaping the city's future.

The summit is also a chance for residents to shape a new vision for the District. The vision will become part of our city's Comprehensive Plan. This document will contain official policies on topics such as affordable housing, transportation, parks, and economic development.

Our goal at the summit is to conduct an exchange among District officials and residents about our plans for the coming years. For the District government, the summit is a chance to be sure we've heard the public's voice accurately.

Citizen Summits I and II accomplished many things in the past few years:

- Created the priorities for the Citywide Strategic Plan
- In 1999, Citizen Summit I persuaded me to add \$70 - \$80 million to the DC Public Schools budget
- Provided content for the "Strategic Neighborhood Action Plans" (SNAPs)
- Helped define the city's housing policy and the city's voting representation efforts

Citizen Summit III will help create a connection and a shared sense of responsibility between government and residents. We have challenges ahead of us. But together, we'll make real choices.

At this citizen summit, we won't spend all of our time talking about what the government should do. Although there will be much of that, we will also spend time looking at how we see ourselves as citizens and how we can become more fully engaged.

What should change and what should remain the same? What would it take to make your neighborhood a better place? How can we improve our schools, stop crime before it happens, and create more job opportunities for District residents? What should our priorities be?

The first two Citizen Summits made a real difference in the District government — and a real difference in your neighborhood. Let's come together to make real choices. And let's make a difference — again.

So mark your calendars for November 1 at the new Washington Convention Center. To register, visit [www.citizensummit.dc.gov](http://www.citizensummit.dc.gov) or call (202) 727-0882.



## AGENCY WEBSITES

[Office of Tax and Revenue](#)

[Department of Parks and Recreation](#)

[Department of Employment Services](#)

[Metropolitan Police Department](#)

[Office of Boards and Commissions](#)

[Commission on the Arts and Humanities](#)

# Mayor Hosts Latino Cultural Fair and Town Hall Meeting

On September 29, I joined our Office on Latino Affairs (OLA) to host the Latino Cultural Fair and Town Hall at Cardozo High School in Ward 1. This was a successful event—a chance for me to hear from our city's Latino residents, who voiced their compliments and concerns.

The Latino Cultural Fair showcased local Latino restaurants as well as art and performances by Latino seniors and high school students. Following the Latino Cultural Fair I hosted a Latino Town Hall in the auditorium of Cardozo High School. The goal of the forum was to engage the Latino community in one-on-one discussions that would continue OLA's goal to improve access to government services and programs for the District's Latino community. The forum also served to introduce and welcome the new director of OLA, Gustavo Velasquez, to the District of Columbia and to the Office on Latino Affairs. The evening began with various District agencies displaying vital service information to the Latino residents of the District. All materials had been translated into Spanish.



Diversity is our strongest asset as a city. It is important that we continue to weave our ideals and beliefs together into patterns of success. That's why we conducted the town hall meeting — to highlight our progress and discuss our future.

During my administration, I have placed great emphasis on including all residents in our government. We have empowered OLA to work together with my office and my Cabinet to increase access to District services for Latino residents in all areas, but with special emphasis on education, health, housing and employment.

I look forward to conducting another cultural fair and town hall, and I appreciate all those who attended and shared their thoughts.

## Community Profile

### Joyce Madyun

Joyce Madyun, a long-time Ward 4 resident, has spent the last 15 years of her life nurturing children in the Petworth area. What started in her home after school has blossomed into a nonprofit called Youth Organizations United to Rise (Y.O.U.R.) Community Center that serves dozens of youth every day. She has volunteered her time because “the pay is watching a child improve by the end of the school year.”

Joyce was a stay at home mom with five children and saw a great need in her neighborhood for after school programs that helped students finish their homework and continue to expand their minds.



Joyce Madyun

“I try to set an example for young people, to teach them that a struggle is good and if you fail, it is OK and to try again,” Joyce said.

Located on the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> and Farragut across from West Elementary School, Y.O.U.R. Community Center is a renovated Victorian home that Joyce and her husband bought in 1997. Her family “exhausted every penny [they] had” to buy the old house and churches, individuals, and businesses donated money, materials and labor. Since that time, children and teens have poured in and out of the building to take field trips, work on computers, finish their homework, or learn life lessons.

Her summer camp, Camp-On-The-Go, served over 220 children in 2003. The camp, funded through the Children Youth Investment Trust, is free to the children. Joyce believes “this city is a great classroom” and takes camp participants on field trips to enhance their learning.

“I don't turn anyone away,” Joyce said.

Joyce was the May adult winner of the Mayor's Community Service Award, sponsored by the DC Commission on National and Community Service. If you would like to nominate a youth or adult for the monthly award, visit [www.cnscs.dc.gov](http://www.cnscs.dc.gov) for nomination information or call (202) 727-9461.



LINK TO OTHER  
WEBSITES

[DC Agenda](#)

[Hands on DC](#)

[DC Convention  
and Tourism](#)

[DC Public Library](#)

## Business Information Center Opens at Downtown Library

On September 24, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the District of Columbia announced the opening of the city's Enhanced Business Information Center (e-BIC) at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library. The e-BIC is located at 901 G Street, NW. It will offer exciting resources and programs to support the District's small business development.

The e-BIC at the King Memorial Library provides the Washington metropolitan area with business planning tools, free onsite resources, staff, training courses and workshops to help entrepreneurs start, grow and expand their businesses. It features a state-of-the-art video conferencing room, computer terminals, a business information resource library and reading room.

The e-BIC will enable the District of Columbia Government, the District of Columbia Public Library and the SBA to work collectively to provide cutting edge programs and services to foster the growth and development of local entrepreneurs.

The e-BIC is an important partnership effort that will allow us to leverage our resources and, at the same time, ensure that our programs and services are client-based and that we are effectively meeting the needs of the small business community.

The library setting offers an environment of better business opportunities to the small business community through reading, learning and community discussion. I'm pleased that with its trained staff, the e-BIC will be able to assist small businesses in effectively finding, evaluating and using information necessary for their growth and development.

The e-BIC will serve entrepreneurs in the Washington metropolitan area, including the District of Columbia; Montgomery and Prince George's Counties in Maryland; the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church; and Arlington, Fairfax and Loudoun Counties in Virginia. It will be open during the scheduled hours of the library, which includes evenings and weekends.

## Dupont Commons Brings Affordable Housing to Ward 7

Across the District of Columbia, we're turning homeownership from a dream into reality.

On September 23, I attended a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the completion of the first of 147 townhouses that will be built in the Dupont Commons by the end of 2004. The Dupont Commons is a new Nehemiah homeownership community in Ward 7.

In 1998, leaders from the Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) committed to working with District officials to build 1,000 new units of affordable Nehemiah housing for DC residents earning less than \$60,000 per year. Founded in 1996, WIN is a multi-racial, multi-faith, non-partisan, District-wide citizens' organization with 54 religious institutions, unions, and public school members representing 25,000 families in every section of the city. In 1999, the DC Housing Authority approved a partnership of WIN, Enterprise Homes and former residents of Fort Dupont as the developer of Dupont Commons.

Many of our readers know the biblical story of Nehemiah. Nehemiah led an effort to rebuild the city of Jerusalem, a project that he completed in 52 days, despite heavy opposition. The story of Nehemiah reminds us that he was heartbroken to learn that his beloved city of Jerusalem had been destroyed. He went to the leadership of the city and asked for their help in rebuilding it. Skeptics were abundant, but the people of Jerusalem cried out: "Let us rise up and build." And they did.

Seeing those homes and the many people who will occupy them made me believe in miracles — the miracle of people from diverse backgrounds coming together for a greater cause. None of this is possible without the commitment from our partners. Many, in fact, were represented on the day of the ribbon cutting ceremony. Through partnerships, we're able to rebuild neighborhoods and restore pride in our communities.

As we persist in rebuilding our communities, let's work diligently, as Nehemiah did in the biblical scriptures. He didn't allow anything to stop him from continuing his work. Let's pay heed to Nehemiah's model. Let us also stay focused on our assignment to rebuild the District of Columbia—one block at a time.



## 5th Annual Public-Private Partnership Conference

I am pleased to announce that the D.C. Office of Partnerships and Grants Development, in partnership with the Washington Council of Agencies, will host the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Public-Private Partnership Conference on Tuesday, October 21, 2003, from 8:00 am- 4:00 pm, at the George Washington University Marvin Center, 800 21<sup>st</sup> Street, NW - Third Floor Ballroom.

This year's theme, "Partnerships: Creating Opportunities For All," will provide a context for District Government agencies, neighboring county governments, federal government agencies, nonprofit organizations, faith-based organizations, foundations, businesses and individuals to discuss the vast array of partnership opportunities. The conference will provide attendees with the tools for building and sustaining public-private partnerships that will support priority issues in the District of Columbia. In this way, the conference supports my Citywide Strategic Plan.

This event will offer a variety of informational and "how to" sessions on topics such as: Funding Trends and Strategies; Legal Nuts and Bolts for Nonprofit and Faith-based Organizations; How to be Effective on Shoestring Technology; Using the New Electronic Grants Application System; Finding Funding Online; and a Federal Faith-Based Initiative Update.

In addition, Johns Hopkins University's Lester Salamon will speak on "The State of the Nonprofit Sector" and Carol Lukensmyer of America Speaks will discuss "Engaging Citizens to Promote Opportunities for All."

Evaluations from previous conferences have been overwhelmingly positive. This year's conference promises to be even more useful and informative, so please join us on October 21.

For further information, contact the D.C. Office of Partnerships and Grants Development at (202) 727-8900 or the Washington Council of Agencies at (202) 457-0540. To register, go to: <http://www.regonline.com/?10140>.

## Mayor Attends 33rd Annual Congressional Black Caucus Events

This year the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Foundation Legislative Conference celebrated its 33<sup>rd</sup> year in Washington, D.C. I attended several events surrounding the conference — some held in our city's new convention center. I applaud the CBC for choosing the District of Columbia for its conference this year.

The theme of this year's conference was "Collective Leadership: Challenging A Bold New World." The theme is symbolic of the leadership that the CBC has shown throughout its existence.

Many African American congressional and civic leaders came from across the country to discuss a number of issues at the conference. Those leaders included Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton; Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald, Chairwoman, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, 2003 Annual Legislative Conference; Weldon J. Rougeau, President, CBC Foundation; Congressman Elijah E. Cummings; Kwesi Mfume, CEO, NAACP; Marc Morial, President and CEO National Urban League; Jesse Jackson, Sr., CEO, Rainbow PUSH; and Sheryl Cooper, Executive Director, National Council of Negro Women.

At the opening session, I told the CBC how much our city has appreciated all of the support given to the District of Columbia over the years. I also attended the CBC reception honoring Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin. Mayor Franklin is the 58th Mayor of Atlanta, after a landslide victory in November 2001. She is the city's first woman Mayor and the first African-American woman to serve as Mayor of a major southern city.

I look forward to partnering with the CBC to improve education, enhance economic development and provide opportunities for all citizens. It will take the collaborative effort of everyone to make a difference, and together, I know we will.





## District Activities



Mayor Williams and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton deliver remarks during press conference and grand opening of Edgewood Terrace Housing Complex.



Mayor Williams demonstrated the District's new wireless radio system, which allows first responders in the District to communicate effectively throughout the city and the region.



Mayor Williams recognizes the excellent work of the employees at the Correspondence Unit during Customer Service Week.



Mayor Williams delivers remarks during ribbon cutting at KIPP DC: Key Academy's new school computer lab. The Mayor is joined by CEO of SAP America Inc. Bill McDermott and KEY Academy founder and Principal Susan Schaeffler.

## Community News

- [District Leads Nation in First Responder Wireless Communication](#)
- [FEMA Registration Line Hours Change](#)
- [Mayor Releases District's First Citywide Comprehensive Substance Abuse Strategy](#)

[View all News Releases](#)

## Upcoming Events

<b>10/11</b>	<b>Household Hazardous Waste Day</b> 9 am - 3 pm Carter Barron Amphitheater For more information, visit <a href="http://www.dpw.dc.gov">www.dpw.dc.gov</a>
<b>10/11 to 10/13</b>	<b>Taste of DC</b> 11 am - 6:30 pm Pennsylvania Avenue, NW between 7th and 14th Streets For more information, call (202) 537-6200
<b>10/18</b>	<b>CakeLove Cakewalk</b> 9 am - 2 pm 15th Street NW between U and T Streets For more information, call (202) 320-9922
<b>11/01</b>	<b>Citizen Summit III</b> 8:30 am - 4 pm 801 Mt Vernon Place, NW Washington Convention Center Exhibit Hall A <a href="http://www.citizensummit.dc.gov">www.citizensummit.dc.gov</a> (202) 727-0882

[View the Mayor's daily schedule](#)

